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4	Construction of Teesta Phase-III in North Sikkim	Ministry of Environment and Forests vide their letter No. J-12011/5/92-IA-I dated 17.8.95 have directed Sikkim Power Department to come up with the Environment Plans on the basis of basin study before the environmental clearance is given. According to records available with the Ministry, additional details have been sought from Government of Sikkim
5.	Rathang-chu Hydro Electric Project.	The Environment and Forestry clearances were issued during 1992 and 1995 respectively. The stay granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter on appeal from NGOs has been vacated and State Power Department has been asked to go ahead with the project work at the risk and peril of the State Government

Condition of Women Prisoners

*445 KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of women prisoners in jails in the country is very miserable;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any plan to improve their condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d) Though it would be inaccurate to say that the condition of women prisoners in jails in the country is very miserable, the Central Government has been stressing the need for further improvement in the living conditions of prisoners.

'Prisons' is a State subject. However, the Central Government, on its part, has been providing, apart from guidance on improvements on various aspects of prison functioning, financial assistance to the States for modernization of prisons. The Tenth Finance Commission has also provided funds to the State Governments to improve the conditions in jails. It is expected that the State plans to improve the infrastructure in jails would lead to better living conditions in jails.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail Line

*446 SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in the construction of Dlli-Rajhara-Raughat-Jagdalpur rail line;

(b) the target for completion of the said route;

(c) whether this said route has been included in the priority list of the railways under the policy for the development of backward and neglected areas, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The Dalli Rajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur line is to be taken up on a cost sharing basis between the Railways, Ministry of Steel and Madhya Pradesh Government. The work has been included in Railway Budget of 95-96.

The basis of cost sharing is as under :

1. Government of Madhya Pradesh would provide free land and royalty concessions of totalling Rs. 27 crs.

2. Ministry of Steel will bear the actual cost of Construction between Dallirajahara and Rowghat (95 kms), presently estimated at Rs. 134 crs. and would also provide a contribution of Rs. 75 crs. as budgetary support for Rowghat-Jagdalpur sector.

3. Railways would provide the balance cost amounting to Rs. 133 crs.

The MOU is under finalization. The major issues which are pending are :

(i) Ministry of Steel had earlier agreed to a 7% return which was to be adjusted through freight concessions. Now they are demanding 16%.

(ii) SAIL had earlier ensured a traffic of 2.4 million tonnes in the first year of operation which would rise to 3.3 million tonnes and more from the 3rd year. Now, they are guaranteeing only a minimum traffic of 2.4 million tonnes per year to entitle themselves for equivalent return on investment.

(iii) The Ministry of Steel are contributing to this project so that they can carry iron ore from Bailadilla Mines of Bhilai Steel Plants. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet cleared the proposal for mining from Bailadilla. The Ministry of Steel want to sign the MOU only after this clearance is obtained.